

Notes & Quotes

M O N T A N A S E E D G R O W E R S A S S O C I A T I O N

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A P P L I C A T I O N S F O R C E R T I F I C A T I O N

Applications for certification of perennial crops (plus canola, peas and lentils) are due May 25th.

- ◆ Applications for certification of all other crops are due June 15th.
- ◆ Applications postmarked after June 15th –June 30th will be assessed a \$50 late fee.
- ◆ Applications postmarked after June 30th will be assessed a \$100 late fee.

Fees: The following fees MUST accompany the *Application for Certification* to the MSGA office :

Annual Filing Fee – Payable with each application **\$30/Application**

Acreage Fee – Will be refunded on acreage cancelled before field inspection

All Crops: **\$2.50/Acre**

With the exception of:

Field Beans: **\$6.00/Acre**

Remember that two (2) field maps are required to be supplied with each application. Maps need to be clearly marked with boundaries for each field. One map will stay in MSGA files and the other will be sent to the appropriate field inspector.

P R O D U C T I O N F E E S D U E

Ideally, production fees should be paid 30 days after harvest but are not considered “late” until April 16th. Growers risk having their current year’s applications withheld from the program if production fees have not been paid for any previous year. Additionally, foundation seed requests for new MSU varieties may be denied if the previous year’s production fees have not been paid. Please call Heather if you have questions on what you owe.

THE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

The date and the weather are both reminders that the 2015 growing season is just around the corner. Some spring crops have already been planted and the winter wheat crop is waking up all around the region. We in the MSGA office are preparing also, in expectation of another banner season. Listed below are some issues that were addressed by the MSGA Board of Directors at their recent February meeting.

Applications – In light of some recent legal issues that popped up, the MSGA Board reviewed the signature aspect of the field application form and determined that all applications must be signed by both the grower and the contractor, if there is one, prior to being submitted to the MSGA Office. This differs from our previous policy of allowing it to be signed either by the grower or the contractor. Please note: applications that do not have both signatures will be returned to the sender for completion before they will be accepted in the office.

Applications are due May 25 for all small and large seeded legumes, grasses, camelina and canola. June 15 is the due date for small grains, beans and safflower. Applications must be completed by these dates, and incomplete applications will be returned to the sender for completion. Late applications will be assessed a late fee of \$50 each until June 30. From then on, the late fee will be \$100 per application.

Small Grain Standards – The MSGA Board passed 2 items with regard to the small grain standards. First of all, the % other crop requirements were changed, so the current maximum tolerance for other crop – other kinds of grain - is 1 seed per pound for the foundation seed, 2 seeds per pound for registered class seed, and 3 seeds per pound in the certified class (unless the other grain can be proven to be a winter crop in a spring crop or vice versa). Removed from the standards was the percentage by weight of these components. This change is effective immediately.

The MSGA Board also passed a measure last summer by phone vote which allows small grain seed imported from other states to come into Montana to be resold using MSGA Bulk Seed Sale Certificates if a 500 gram AOSA approved laboratory purity has been done on the seed lot. Montana produced seed must still have a 1000 gram laboratory purity test before it can be approved for sale. The same is true for certified classes of small grain seed imported from Canada or another country.

THE MANAGER'S PERSPECTIVE

Grass Seed Standards – Certified Class only – A proposal supported by the Montana Seed Trade Association was brought forward and presented to the MSGA Board. The board agreed with the proposal and passed the new seed tolerance table for grass seed which makes minor adjustments to the purity and germ standards for a number of species. All the standards changes appear to be within the tolerance limits for the AOSCA national/international seed standards for the species listed there. These changes should be available soon on the website.



Left to Right: Dr. John Sherwood (ex-officio), Kirby Lohr-Shelby, Steve Grove-Moccasin, Ron Larson-MSGA Manager, Charlie Cahill-Scobey (Vice President), Pat Lake-Ronan and John McDonnell-Three Forks. Not Pictured John Wold-Laurel (President)

In other news, Gary Schaff has been named Supervisor of Field Services. MSGA has determined that with the increased number of acres in certification in the last few years, the addition of this position is warranted. So we have appointed an experienced field inspector with 17 seasons of service as the supervisor of field services. Duties will include oversight of the field inspection program for 2015, development of inspection training materials, and conducting conditioning plant inspections in the off season. The position is considered ½ time. We welcome Gary to this new position.

T H E S E E D - P O I N T B Y B I L L G R E Y

Spring time passed us in February and now we are into winter/spring season. It is tough but at some time I know we will need to sow the seeds. Got to get the mojo up, prep the ground, spread the fertilizer and load up the drills. Rock and Seed, let's roll.

1. New release from Phil Bruckner for a winter wheat; MT0978, proposed name is "Northern" out of great respect for the 100 year anniversary of MSU – NARC. Hollow stem and shorter than Yellowstone, plus a bunch of new attributes, give it a look see on the link:
<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed/varietyrelease/2015.html?>
2. Struggled with how to approach this, the man, Ron Larson, will be retiring this June. He has earned a well deserved adieu from services to us all. I can't imagine how he has kept the smile and ever positive attitude while working with the likes of myself (and a few other sore heads). My chapeau is off to you friend, enjoy your family and free time. MSU has announced a vacancy announcement, jargon for job listing, and I encourage you to spread the word and recruit applicants. For details and applications google "Montana Seed Growers Association Manger" <https://jobs.montana.edu/postings/1740>
3. Dave Wichman proposed three licensed variety releases, including Safflower lines, C17 and C24(and Baldy) for forage, cover crop blends, and wildlife grazing and a the first sorghum release from MSU. Norm Weeden is constantly improving the high amylose peas lines and has released MSUPBL37A. Study up and learn about the new variety releases from MSU <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/foundationseed/varietyrelease/2015.html>



MSU Post Manager Dave Gettel retrofitting an auger with plastic fittings for handling of pulse seeds.

Enjoy the planting season,

Bill Grey

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<http://plantsciences.montana.edu/FoundationSeed/>



STATE FFA

This year the State Montana FFA Convention was held in Billings, MT March 25-28th. As in years past the Montana Seed Growers Association is a sponsor of the agronomy contest and scholarship in partnership with Montana Grain Growers, Bayer Crop Science and the Montana Seed Trade Association. The overall winner of the contest was Ben Raider of Choteau and the top team was Stevensville.

MSGA President John Wold of Laurel is pictured left after the 2nd general session with the sponsorship plaque.



SEED LAB NEWS

The Montana State Seed Lab has had a very busy year, with sample numbers running about 19% higher than previous years. Current lab staff members include Bridget Westfall, our chief analyst, Faye Jorgensen, analyst in training, Ryan Quire, part time lab coordinator, a 1/4 time bookkeeper, 5 student workers and 2 other part-time non-student workers. We do appreciate these people for their diligence in keeping up a rather hectic pace as samples show up to the lab. And thanks again to our customers for making use of the Montana State Seed Lab.



**MONTANA SEED
GROWERS
ASSOCIATION**

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“Look for the tag on the bag!”

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HARLEM SEED SHOW

The 66th annual Montana Seed Show – dubbed as Montana’s oldest running seed show - was held March 12-14, 2015. The director of the three day event (which includes an antique car show, pie and bread baking contest, chili cook-off and trade show, was Paul Rasmussen, a producer in the Harlem area. The seed contest portion of the program was held on Thursday, March 12. Rick and Michelle Fisher, owners of Fisher Seed, have been co-superintendents of this contest for many years. Superintendent of the Forage portion of the show this year was Ben Hauptman, who is also the Ag. and 4-H Extension Agent for Blaine County. The seed show judges this year were Peggy Lamb, Agronomist at the

Northern Ag. Research Center, and Ron Larson, Manager, MSGA. The samples this year included small grains, peas, lentils, and potatoes. In earlier years this show was a mix of common and certified seed classes in adult and youth divisions. These days, the show seems to consist mainly of certified samples collected by the MSGA staff and sent to the contest with permission of seed producers and contractors. This year the winners of rosette ribbons (best of show) included Golden Harvest Seeds and Golden Triangle Seeds, both for peas. Purple ribbon winners (best of seed class) included Treasure State Seed, Inc. and Golden Triangle Seeds. The overall travelling trophy for best of

show between crops and forages went to a



forage producer this year, Fred Miller, Chinook. For more information on ribbon winners, please contact the MSGA office. Entry of samples is open to anyone in Montana, so, if it is something you would like to do, consider entering a sample of seed or forage in next year’s Montana Seed Show. This is a great way to showcase these crops to the general public and keeps the importance of good seed at the forefront of the minds of show visitors.